

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	312480
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Cilla Burdis
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Childminding

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2000. She lives with her husband and three children aged 20, 12 and nine years. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five on a part-time basis and one child, aged over five, before and after school. The childminder also cares for children aged eight years and over. The childminder walks or uses the car to accompany children to and from local schools. She attends local carer and toddler groups.

The family has one dog and three guinea pigs.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well presented home where good standards of hygiene are maintained. Children learn the importance of good hygiene practice and discuss the importance of washing hands after using the toilet or handling pets. Wipes are accessible for the children to wipe their hands and faces at any time. The clear, written sickness policy is shared with parents so they can work with the childminder in protecting children from illness and infection. Relevant records are in place for accidents and medication to protect children. Some parents, however, have not confirmed, in writing, that they give their consent for the childminder to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for their child.

Children enjoy a wide range of physical activities to promote their development and gain control of their bodies. The childminder organises her home well to enable children to freely explore the childminding environment. A variety of equipment is available in the garden including a trampoline and slide. Children regularly visit toddler groups, parks and soft play centres to extend their experiences. As a result, children develop a positive attitude towards exercise. Children are able to rest or be active in accordance with their individual needs. Sleeping children are monitored closely by the childminder.

Children's individual dietary requirements are met through consultation with parents. Children learn about healthy eating, for example, they learn that eating five portions of fruit and vegetables a day helps to keep them healthy. A menu plan is shared with parents to inform them of the type of meals provided. The childminder works with parents to ensure children receive a nutritious and balanced diet.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. The home is made welcoming with a broad range of clean, well maintained resources that are made accessible for the children. Evidence of children's artwork is displayed, which shows that it is valued. The children are able to make choices and self-select, which helps develop their independence. The childminder ensures children's choice of toys is safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder identifies and minimises risks around the home. Therefore, children are able to move safely, freely and independently. Children are kept safe on outings through the effective procedures followed by the childminder. Children learn about fire safety by checking the smoke alarms with the childminder and undertaking regular fire evacuation procedures.

Children are well protected by the childminder, who is confident and secure in her knowledge of child protection policies and procedures.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settle well in the secure and stable environment. Excellent relationships have developed and the children show good levels of care and concern towards each other. They display high levels of confidence and self-esteem. Children experience a good range of

activities that contribute effectively to their development both inside and outside the home. They are able to make choices about activities and select from a good range of resources made accessible to them. The childminder sits at the children's level, joining in their play. Children's imaginations are developed as the childminder becomes involved in their role play. She asks questions to make children think and to assess what they know and understand. The childminder plans activities that support the developing needs of all the children attending. Children make regular visits to local carer and toddler groups and activity centres, which provide opportunities to develop their social skills as they mix with other children. Photographs show the children involved in baking activities, building a snowman, and on visits to the local farm, beach and parks. The good range of experiences provided help children to learn in fun and interesting ways.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of toys and activities to promote a positive view of the wider world, which increases children's understanding of others. They learn about their local community when they visit local centres and places of interest, such as the library, parks and local shops. All visits are used as effective learning experiences for the children. For example, if visiting local shops the children are encouraged to search for specific items and learn how a transaction is made. The children visited a storytime session at the local library where they participated in activities to help them learn about the Chinese New Year.

The childminder provides clear and consistent boundaries and encourages good behaviour through the effective use of praise and encouragement. This helps children to learn what is acceptable and helps them to take responsibility for their own behaviour. The children learn to consider the feelings of others through sharing and taking turns. The older children are very caring and supportive towards the younger ones.

Childminding policies, procedures and details about the childminder are shared with parents during the induction period. The childminder works very closely with parents to ensure all children are cared for in accordance with their individual needs. Parents and carers are kept well informed of their child's progress and daily activities through regular verbal feedback. Photographs are shared showing their children participating in activities. Comments from children and parents compliment the childminder on the care provided for the children and the fun the children have with her.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the good organisation of the provision. The childminder plans activities that are flexible and meet the children's needs. Good daily routines allow children to experience a range of exciting activities both inside and outside of the home. The children feel at ease and at home in the welcoming environment and are confident in initiating their own play.

All relevant documents are in place and most parental consents have been obtained. Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the care and welfare of the children. The childminder attends training whenever possible, to increase her understanding of good quality care. To promote children's welfare the childminder maintains adequate ratios at all times and ratios were met at inspection.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was requested to make sure all persons aged 16 and over undergo relevant checks to confirm they are suitable to be in the household, when minded children are present. All persons have undergone relevant suitability checks and evidence of the Criminal Records Bureau check is retained. The childminder was also requested to agree emergency, contingency care arrangements with parents. The arrangements are documented and parents' signatures confirm their agreement. This promotes children's safety and welfare.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

## **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### **WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?**

#### **The quality and standards of the care**

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- request consent from all parents for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)